

CGSC

Notes

Former Joint Chiefs Chairman Honored

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell, Retired, became the 81st person inducted into the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame on 23 February 2000 during a ceremony at Bell Hall's Marshall Auditorium. Established in 1970, the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding leaders who served at Fort Leavenworth and have contributed to the achievement, tradition or history of the US Army.

Powell's connection to Fort Leavenworth began with his graduation from the US Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in 1968. He also served as the deputy commanding general of the Combined Arms Combat Developments Activity from 1982 to 1983.

During his acceptance speech, Powell reflected on his 35-year military career and how fortunate he felt to have fulfilled his earliest ambition—not to become the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—but to be a US soldier. It was to his fellow soldiers—particularly CGSC students—that Powell addressed his closing remarks. "I hope that 32 years from now, when you perhaps come back here . . . the memories will flood in. The memories will grab your heart—the memories of a pleasant time and wonderful place that means so much to . . . our way of life. I hope that you will think fondly of all those who came before you and all those who came [as] warriors of a nation. Remember that the nation is counting on you, and remember above all that you are the warriors of the nation and that the nation has put [its] trust in you. And I know that you will be worthy of that trust."

In addition to his post as Joint Chiefs chairman, Powell held many other positions, including White House Fellow, senior military assistant to the deputy secretary of defense and assistant to the president for national security affairs, a post he held until January 1989.

His numerous awards include the Defense Distinguished Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart.

In October 1989, Powell became the youngest officer, the first African American and the first ROTC graduate to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his four-year tenure, Powell oversaw 28 crises in-

cluding Operation *Desert Storm*.

Powell has continued to serve his country after retiring in 1993, serving on the board of several nonprofit organizations, including the Board of Governors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Board of Trustees of Howard University, the Advisory Board of the Children's Health Fund and the Board of Directors of the United Negro College Fund.

Powell's many civilian awards, which honor his public



SPC: Christopher J. Murphy, US Army

service, include two awards of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the President's Citizens Medal, the Congressional Gold Medal and the Secretary of State Distinguished Service Medal.

Editor's note: Adapted from an article that appeared in the Fort Leavenworth Lamp.

DJMO

Jim Willbanks, Joint Operations Division and CGSC Civilian Instructor of the Year, AY 1999-2000, recently presented a paper titled "US Advisors, 1969-1973: Vietnamizing the War" at the the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

LTC Billy Blackwell will conduct a Domestic

continued on page 119

Command and General Staff College